

WI-278  
John W. Parks House  
Nanticoke  
Private

c. 1820, c. 1877

The John W. Parks house stands out in the village of Nanticoke as a distinctive dwelling for several reasons. The three-part, frame house is the only example of the stepped or “telescope” house form in the village, and the center section, dating to the 1820s, is one of the oldest surviving structures in Nanticoke. The story-and-a-half one-room plan frame dwelling survives with a corner staircase enclosed behind a flat four-panel door that retains early nineteenth century hardware. The stair enclosure is finished with a grid of flat paneling as well. Remaining on the second floor is a slender Federal style railing with an original newel post, balusters, and handrail. A Federal style mantel is located in the adjacent kitchen, but it probably decorated the original first floor fireplace in the one-room house. Around 1877, the one-room dwelling was reused in a building program that included the construction of a two-story gable-front main block on the west end and a single-story one room kitchen on the east. The old early nineteenth century house was probably used as a dining room.

The history and builder of the early nineteenth century one-room house is not known. Family tradition relates that the house was moved from a location closer to the Nanticoke River, however the exact site is unclear. The two-story, gable-front addition, however, is dated by a pencil inscription to 1877. It was probably around the same time that the one-story kitchen was attached to the east gable end. The property on which

this house stands was held in the Parks and related Long families for close to one hundred years, stretching from the late 1870s to 1971. John W. Parks acquired portions of the tract known as "Wallace's Venture," which was sold in the wake of an equity case involving William J. Langrall. On April 20, 1878, John W. Parks purchased two tracts of land, a 10 acre parcel and a smaller 4 1/4 acre piece, which was described as "near the dwelling house of said Parks." John W. Parks is designated at this site on the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas published in 1877. In 1896 John W. Parks transferred ownership of his house and lands to Sarah V. Parks. By 1933 the property passed into the hands of Harry Long Parks, who resided here and maintained ownership until his death in 1966.

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: John W. Parks House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-278

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition  
1815-1870
4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. WI-278

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic John W. Parks House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 20633 Nanticoke Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Nanticoke ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mrs. Fred Bartlett

street & number 503 Azalea Drive telephone no.: 301-424-3525  
410-873-2552

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 63, p. 45  
liber 775

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 553

city, town Salisbury state Maryland 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

Depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-278

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			<u>unknown</u>

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John W. Parks house, also known as the Captain Harry Parks house, stands on the east side of Nanticoke Road (MD 349) on the northern edge of the village of Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house faces west with the gable-front roof oriented on an east/west axis. According to the current owner, Mrs. Fred Bartlett, the Parks family tradition maintains the house was moved to this site during the nineteenth century.

Dating from two distinct periods, the main two-story, three-bay gable-front frame house serves as the main block to a three-part stepped or telescope dwelling that descends in height to the rear. The story-and-a-half, one-room plan middle section is the oldest portion with Federal woodwork and mature cut nails dating it around 1820. The third section, a single-story kitchen, dates to the third quarter of the nineteenth century and was probably erected at the same time as the main block. The three-part dwelling is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with plain weatherboards. The various gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles.

The west (main) elevation is a three-bay facade with a side entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows accented with louvered shutters. The paneled front door as well as the windows have molded lintels. The second floor is lighted by three six-over-six sash window also flanked with louvered shutters and accented with molded lintels. The gable end is pierced by a narrow, round-arched one-over-one sash window. The eaves are slightly extended and finished with sloped soffits.

The north and south sides of the front block are two bays across with pairs of six-over-six sash windows lighting the first and second floors. The east gable end is largely covered by the story-and-a-half middle section, which is served by an interior brick chimney. Rising against the gable end wall of the main block, the chimney stack serves both the front and middle sections.

The south side of the one-room plan Federal house is defined by three openings with a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The front door is an early nineteenth century flush panel door with a beaded edge framing the lower panels. The upper panels have been replaced with glass. A shed porch shelters the south side. The north side of the one-room house is defined in the same manner with a center door and flanking windows. The north door dates from the early nineteenth century and has been modified with glass panes as well. The north and south roof slopes have cross gable pierced by a small center window.

The kitchen is a single-story, one-room plan structure lighted by six-over six sash windows on the first floor, and it is served by an exterior corbelled base brick chimney stack that rises on the east gable end. Four-over-two sash windows light the attic on either side of the single flue stack. An enclosed shed room on the south side contains a bathroom.

(Continued)

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-278

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The John W. Parks house stands out in the village of Nanticoke as a distinctive dwelling for several reasons. The three-part, frame house is the only example of the stepped or “telescope” house form in the village, and the center section, dating to the 1820s, is probably one of the oldest surviving structures in Nanticoke. The story-and-a-half one-room plan frame dwelling survives with a corner staircase enclosed behind a flat four-panel door that retains early nineteenth century hardware. The stair enclosure is finished with a grid of flat paneling as well. Remaining on the second floor is a slender Federal style railing with an original newel post, balusters, and handrail. A Federal style mantel is located in the adjacent kitchen, but it probably decorated the original first floor fireplace in the one-room house. Around 1877, the one-room dwelling was reused in a building program that included the construction of a two-story gable-front main block on the west end and a single-story one room kitchen on the east. The old early nineteenth century house was probably used as a dining room.

The house has not seen significant alterations since the late nineteenth century and due to its intact architectural features and high integrity it qualifies for listing in *Category A*, which identifies a building that must be retained due its architectural and/or historical significance.

The history and builder of the early nineteenth century one-room house is not known. Family tradition relates that the house was moved from a location closer to the Nanticoke River, however the exact site is unclear. The two-story, gable-front addition, however, is dated by a pencil inscription to 1877. It was probably around the same time that the one-story kitchen was attached to the east gable end. The property on which this house stands was held in the Parks and related Long families for close to one hundred years, stretching from the late 1870s to 1971.(1) John W. Parks acquired portions of the tract known as “Wallace’s Venture,” which was sold in the wake of an equity case involving William J. Langrall.(2) On April 20, 1878, John W. Parks purchased two tracts of land, a 10 acre parcel and a smaller 4 1/4 acre piece, which was described as “near the dwelling house of said Parks.”(3) John W. Parks is designated

(Continued)



## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

John W. Parks House, WI-278  
Nanticoke

The interior has not changed significantly since the late nineteenth century. The main two-story house follows a side hall/parlor plan with a turned baluster staircase rising against the south wall. A turned oak newel post and a series of turned balusters support a circular profile handrail that ramps steeply close to the first landing. A serpentine or wave decoration embellishes the stringer. The doors and windows are framed by plain surrounds with shallow arched lintels. A four-panel door opens into the stair closet, which is where the penciled date is located. The inscription, "Built in 1877" is printed on the inside face of the closet door lintel, but it has been retraced since the woodwork was repainted some years ago.

The parlor is entered through a four-panel door framed by a slightly arched surround. A third quarter of the nineteenth century mantel is fixed against the east wall.

The interior of the middle section retains its original enclosed staircase in the southeast corner. A flush four-panel door retains its original hardware and opens into a small boxed staircase enclosed with a flat panel partition. The ceiling in this room has been lower approximately four and five inches and it is sheathed with beaded, tongue-and-groove boards. The second floor retains a slender proportioned handrail that dates to the early nineteenth century as well. A later partition has divided the space into two rooms.

The kitchen has exposed ceiling beams with circular sawn kerf marks. Fixed against the east wall is an early nineteenth century Federal mantel that was probably taken from the middle room and installed here when the new chimney stack was erected to serve both sections. The mantel follows a typical Federal format with side pilasters rising to a five-part frieze, which is topped by molded mantel shelf. The second floor space is partly finished and partly unfinished. The gable end wall of the middle section is exposed, and it is clearly discernable that the framing of the kitchen was built against the older section and depended on it as a fourth wall. The outside face of the studs are marked by a series of sheared off weatherboarding nails.



## 8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

John W. Parks House, WI-278

Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland

at this site on the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas published in 1877.(4) In 1896 John W. Parks transferred ownership of his house and lands to Sarah V. Parks.(5) By 1933 the property passed into the hands of Harry Long Parks, who resided here and maintained ownership until his death in 1966. His heirs sold the house in 1971 to the current owner.(6)

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### Footnotes

1 Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 3/6, 4/20/1878, Wicomico County Courthouse.

2 Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 2/498, 4/19/1878, Wicomico County Courthouse.

3 Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 3/6, 4/20/1878.

4 John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, 1976, p. 12.

5 Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 18/149, 6/6/1896, Wicomico County Courthouse.

6 Wicomico County Land Record, 738/116, 6/21/1971, Wicomico County Courthouse.

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Chain of title

Map 63, Parcel 45

775/553

Charles L. Wilson  
Ethel Wilson

to

11/14/1972

Fred D. Bartlett  
Maryllis Bartlett

738/116

Maurice Ray Long  
Virginia Bland Long  
Eleanor Parks Jones, same person as Elinor Long Jones  
and Howard D. Jones, Frederick W. Kammer, Personal  
Representative of the Estate of Mary Victoria Kammer

to

6/21/1971

Charles L. Wilson and Ethel Wilson

Fred D. Bartlett  
Maryllis Bartlett

the said Harry L. Parks having since departed this life  
and by Item Second of his Last Will and Testament,  
dated 11/9/1966, JAH 10/509, devised property to  
Maurice R. Long and Eleanor Parks Jones and Mary  
Victoria Kammer

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Chain of title continued

Page 2

IDT 180/243

Effie M. Collier, John W. Collier, Minnie H. Evans  
and William F. Evans and Maude P. Long, widow

to

9/21/1933

Harry L. Parks

Those two tracts or parcels

A. 9-acre parcel being in all respects the same  
property conveyed to Sarah V. Parks from John  
W. Parks, 6/6/1896, JTT 18/149

B. West side of highway, 4 ½ acres

JTT 18/149

John W. Parks

to

6/6/1896

Sarah V. Parks

10 acres--all the land that he the said John W. Parks  
owns or possesses on the East side of the County  
road leading from Roaring Point wharf to Jones M. E.  
Church, the land adjoins the lands of Albert H.  
Williams and Thomas J. Parks on the South and the  
land of Thomas J. Walter on the East and on the  
northeast by the land of the heirs of Alfred  
Harrington together with all the buildings and  
improvements thereon

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SPT 3/6

Isaac W Roberts  
Julia A. Roberts

to

4/20/1878

John W. Parks

2 tracts 4 1/4 acres Lot 2  
10 acres Lot 1

“near the dwelling house of said Parks”

SPT 2/498

James E. Ellegood, Trustee

to

4/19/1878

Isaac W. and Thomas S. Roberts

Part of the land formerly owned by William J.  
Langrell

Decree of Circuit Court

William W. Roberts vs. James E. Ellegood, Mary  
J. Langrell, No. 199, SPT 1/309-326

\$1190.00 30 acres on both sides of county road

Advertised in the *Eastern Shoreman*, exposed to  
public auction, 12/12/1874

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Chain of title continued

Page 4

1. A part of a tract of land called Wallace Venture or Adventure...being the place where William J. Langrall lived at the time of this death & called in the advertisement the Home Place containing 34 acres
2. A part of the tract called Wallace's Adventure adjoining the former tract of land containing 31 acres....William D. Heath being the highest and best bidder.....\$900.00
3. A tract of land lying in Tyaskin District known and called as the Winder Place containing 86 acres....William D. Heath being the highest and best bidder.....\$460.00
4. A house and lot in Dorchester County on the Nanticoke River nearly opposite the late dwelling of the said William J. Langrall dec'd ....William D. Heath being the highest and best.

Case 199 File

Last Will and Testament of William J. Langrall

Written 10/11/1873  
Proved 6/23/1874

- Item 1 It is my will and desire that my body be plainly and decently interred at Tyaskin Church P. E. And a plain head and foot stone be erected to mark the spot
- Item 2 I constitute and appoint James E. Ellegood executor of this my last will and testament with full power to dispose of all my property real, personal and mixed on such terms as the Court may direct, and the

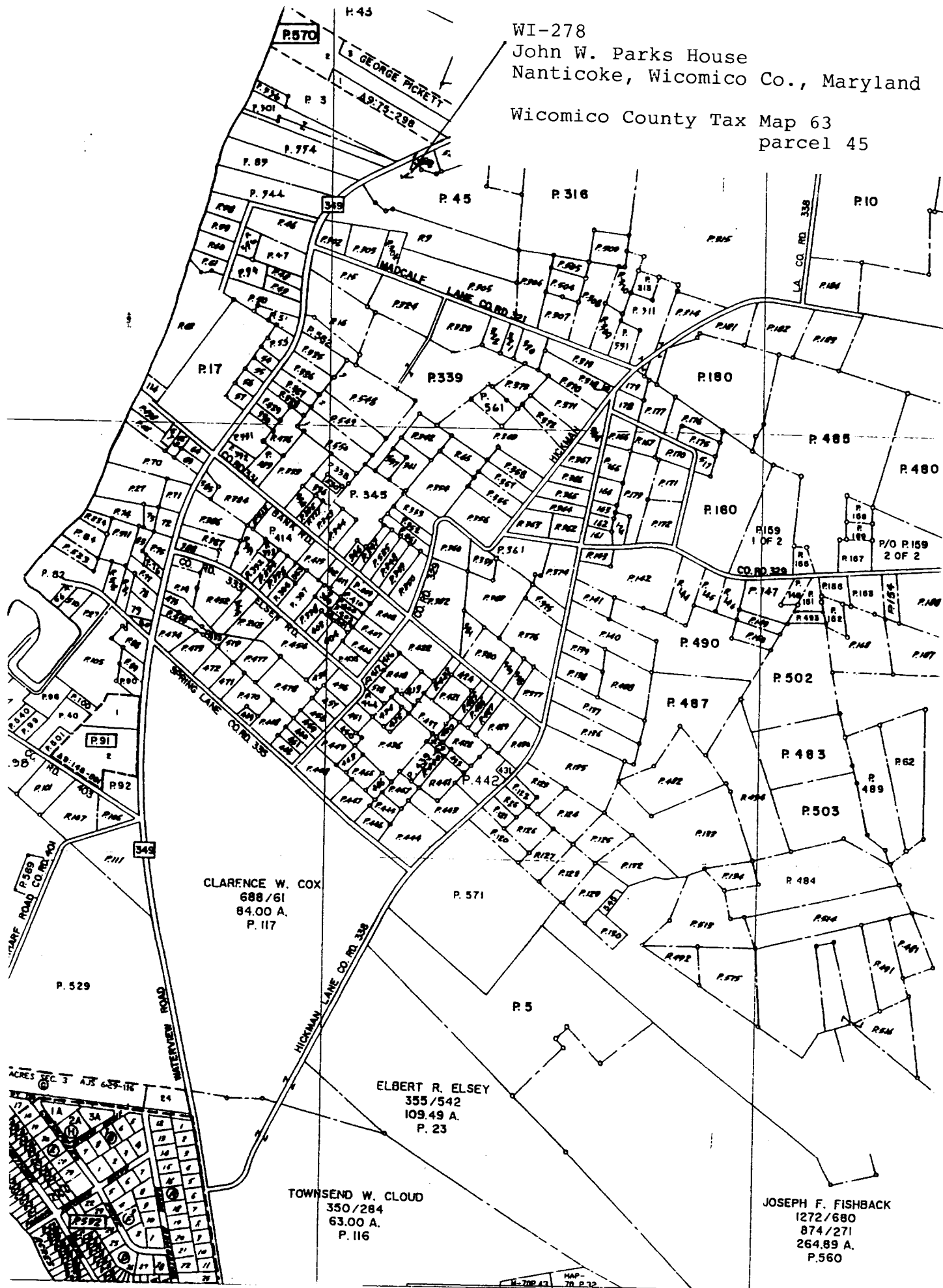
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Chain of title continued

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residue if any after paying my just debts to  
be equally divided between my children  
share and share alike

Item 3 I give and bequeath to my beloved wife  
Mary one colt and carriage, with my dying  
affection and sincere regret that I cannot  
better provide for her comfort and happiness

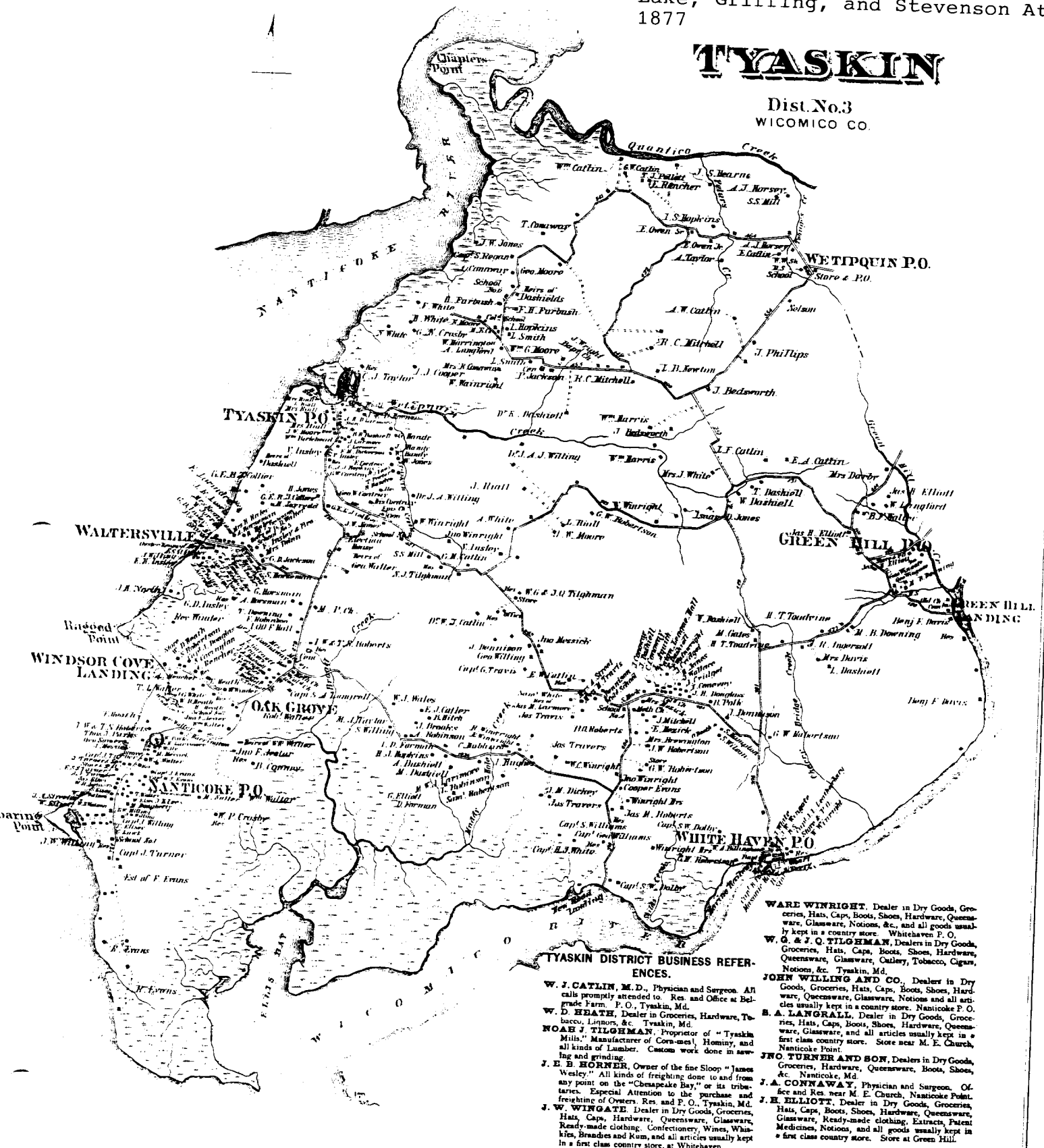
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John W. Parks House  
Nanticoke, Wicomico Co., Maryland  
Wicomico County Tax Map 63  
parcel 45



WI-278

John W. Parks House  
Nanticoke, Wicomico County, MD

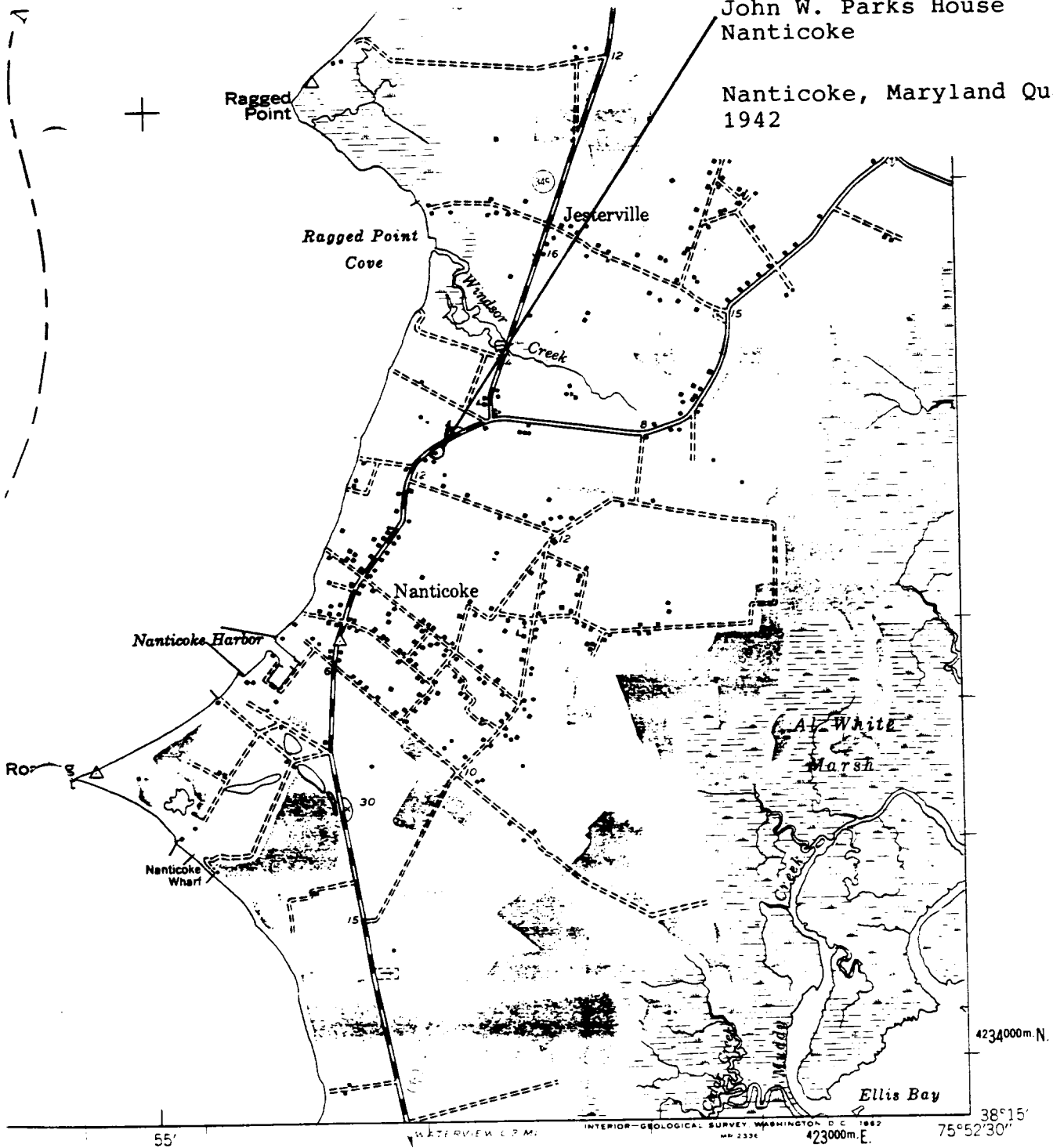
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas  
1877



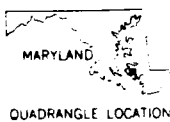


WI-278  
John W. Parks House  
Nanticoke

Nanticoke, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942



1 MILE  
7000 FEET  
METER



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Medium-duty

Light-duty

Unimproved dirt

State Route

NANTICOKE, MD.  
SW/4 NANTICOKE 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3815-W7552.5/7.5

1942



W1-278

John W. PARRIS House

MANNING, Nicotiana Co., Ind.

Southwest 112 ft. x 11

5/96 Pine Trees, 4-5 ft. high

NEG, Pine Trees, 4-5 ft. high



W1-278

John W. Parks House

Nantuxon, Nicomaco Co., Md.

504th Street & LEVANTON

5/96, Park Touring, PROTECTOR

NEC. (MIS. HISTORY) 1911



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Juan W. Pardo House

Nantuxee, Wicomico County, MD.

Non-invasive evaluation

Spec. Pardo Town, PHOTOGRAPHED

NEB / MD. Historical Trust





W1-278

John H. Paine's papers

NANTUCKET, NANTUCKET CO., MASS.

STAIR

590, Paine Tourist, Nantucket

N#6 / Mrs. Paine's Trust